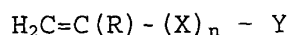


CLAIMS

1. Oral care composition comprising a polymer obtainable by copolymerising a mixture of comonomers, in which at least 40 mol% of the mixture of comonomers is constituted by a comonomer having the formula (I):



in which R is hydrogen or a methyl group, X is a divalent organic linking group, n is an integer of 0 or 1, and Y is a carboxylate or phosphonate anion, or the corresponding salt or acid thereof;

and in which the balance of the mixture of comonomers is constituted by neutral and/or cationic comonomers;

said composition being in the form of any one of a toothpaste, gel, foam, chewing gum, deformable strip or mouthwash and being suitable for use in the oral cavity.

2. Oral care composition according to claim 1, in which the anionic comonomer is selected from mono-2-(methacryloyl)ethyl succinate and vinyl phosphonic acid.

3. Oral care composition according to claim 2, in which the neutral and/or cationic comonomers are selected from styrene, [2(methacryloyloxy)ethyl]trimethylammonium chloride, 2-hydroxyethylacrylate, N-[tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl] acrylamide, N-vinylpyrrolidone, (ar-vinylbenzyl) trimethylammonium chloride,

N,N-dimethylacrylamide and mixtures thereof.

4. Oral care composition according to claim 3, comprising a polymer obtainable by copolymerising a mixture of vinyl phosphonic acid, [2(methacryloyloxy)ethyl]trimethylammonium chloride and 2-hydroxyethylacrylate.

5. Oral care composition according to claim 3, comprising a polymer obtainable by copolymerising a mixture of vinyl phosphonic acid and N-[tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl]acrylamide.

6. Process for preparing an oral care composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, comprising the steps of:

preparing a mixture of comonomers as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 in an ethanol/water diluent;

polymerising the mixture by heating it under inert gas in the presence of an initiator;

extracting the polymer so obtained and blending it with one or more oral care actives and/or excipients so as to produce an oral care composition which is in the form of any one of a toothpaste, gel, foam, chewing gum, deformable strip or mouthwash and which is suitable for use in the oral cavity.